

RIMARK

New stores see Primark profits soar

THE owner of Primark has seen half-year earnings soar by more than a third, as it launched new stores, lifted prices and hailed the return of better husiness conditions business conditions

business conditions.
Associated British
Foods, which also owns
household brands
spanning from British
Sugar to Blue Dragon
and Dorset Cereals,
said consumers remain
under some pressure
from the cost-of-living
crisis

The company revealed its pre-tax profit hit £881 million in the six months to March, up 37% compared with the same period last year. It said this was a

consequence of

consequence of investment in expanding its stores. Group revenues ticked up 5% to £9.7 billion, driven by

billion, driven by demand across retail and food businesses. Sales at Primark were lifted by price rises on some clothing lines, in efforts to cushion the impact of

FTSE 100 at highest level

LONDON'S FTSE 100 Index has soared to its highest level as the shares rally shows little

sign of easing.
The FTSE surpassed the previous intraday record of 8,047.06 from February last year, with investors in good spirits amid continued hopes of geopolitical tensions easing and economic conditions improving.

It comes after the blue-chip share index reached a record-breaking closing level on Monday, finishing at 8,023.87, after surging by more than 1.6%.



Mum of young person at centre of Huw Edwards furore:



person at the centre of the Huw Edwards furore has said their family is "still suffering" and "still have so many questions" after the top newsreader's resignation from the BBC.

Edwards (*left*) left the BBC "on the basis of medical advice from his doctors" after 40 years of service, the corporation announced on Monday.

His resignation follows allegations that he paid

sexually explicit photos.

Edwards, 62, has been absent from screens since the story first broke and his wife previously said he was receiving in-patient hospital care and suffering serious mental health

The mum of the young person said yesterday: "This isn't the end for us.

"We're also suffering and have been immensely for nearly a year.

"We still have so many

questions and need the BBC to answer them." A statement from the BBC announcing Edwards' resignation said: "Huw

resigned and left the BBC.

"After 40 years of service, Huw has explained that his decision was made on the basis of medical advice from his

"The BBC has accepted

believes will allow all parties to move forward.

appropriate to comment

In February, the BBC apologised to the family after a review into how non-editorial complaints are handled at the corporation.

A report, commissioned in the wake of the scandal, found a need for "greater consistency" in how complaints are processed.



Borrowing overshoots Hunt's plan

CHANCELLOR Jeremy Hunt has been dealt a blow after official a blow after offic figures revealed ngures revealed borrowing for the last financial year overshot forecasts, hitting £120.7bn as wages and benefit

as wages and benefit payments soared.
The Office for National Statistics estimated full-year public sector net borrowing was £7.6bn less than in 2022-23, but £6.6bn more than predicted by the UK's official forecaster.
The Office for Budget Responsibility had

The Office for Budget Responsibility had forecast borrowing of £114.1bn in the year to the end of March. It comes after borrowing of £11.9bn in March, which is £4.7bn less than a year ago, but higher than the £10bn expected by

£10bn expected by most economists. While higher than expected, it is thought the figures will not stop Mr Hunt (above) from

Mr Hunt (above) from looking to cut taxes later this year in the run up to the general election.

A spokesman from Pantheon Macroeconomics said: "We expect the Chancellor to cut taxes again before the election, despite horrowing. despite borrowing overshooting his

Puregym will keep growing

PUREGYM says it plans to keep expanding with new gyms after opening 40 across the UK over the

past year.
It came as the gym
operator said the new sites helped drive a rise in revenues in 2023 amid a "challenging" economic backdrop for the business and customers.

The leisure company revealed that revenues grew 15% to £549m for the year, compared with

It said it also benefited from a membership rise, which increased 11% across the business with

16% growth in the UK. Last year, PureGym continued its rapid expansion programme with 54 new openings, including 40 new gyms across the UK.

Little Rishi talks tough over Rwanda flights **GEARING UP: The Prime Minister**

RISHI Sunak vowed to let nothing "stand in our way" as he gears up to send Channel migrants to Rwanda within weeks after his deportation plan was finally passed by Parliament.

The first asylum seekers are expected to be rounded up and detained within days after a political tussle over the controversial law finally ended in the early hours of yesterday morning.
The House of Lords had been

The House of Lords had been engaged in an extended tussle over the Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Bill on Monday, sending it back to the Commons five times in a id to secure changes.
But they relented just after

By COLIN HURST news@sundaysport.co.uk

midnight, paving the way for it to become law and allow delayed flights to start in July, in a move Tories hope will boost the party's hopes of being re-elected later this year.

But the news did not appear to have filtered across the Channel, with more migrant boats filmed leaving the French coast near Dunkirk yesterday morning, heading for the UK.

Focus

In a statement yesterday, the PM, who is in Poland, said: "The passing of this legislation will allow us to do that and make it very clear that if you come here illegally, you will not be able to stay.

"Our focus is to now get flights off the ground, and I am clear that nothing will stand in our way of doing that and saving lives."

The usual suspects have lined up to blast the plan.
Filippo Grandi, the UN high commissioner for refugees, said: "The new legislation marks a further step away from the UK's long tradition of providing refuge to those in need, in breach of the Refugee Convention. Convention.

Convention.
"Protecting refugees requires all countries – not just those neighbouring crisis zones – to uphold their obligations. This arrangement seeks to shift responsibility for refugee protection. responsibility for refugee protection, undermining international cooperation and setting a worrying global precedent."

Volker Turk, the UN high

commissioner for human rights, added: "By shifting responsibility for refugees, reducing the UK courts' ability to scrutinise removal decisions, restricting access to legal remedies in the UK and limiting the scope of domestic and international human rights protections for a specific group of people, this new legislation seriously hinders the rule of law in the UK and sets a perilous precedent globally.

Critical

"It is critical to the protection of the human rights and dignity of refugees and migrants seeking protection that all removals from the UK are carried out after assessing their specific individual circumstances in strict compliance with interna-tional human rights and refugee law."

TODAY'S WEATHER

WEDNESDAY starts bright and dry with some early morning sunshine for much of the UK.
Folk in Scotland will see sunshine in the afternoon, to while aloud too, while cloud moves in across most of England. 0

THREE-DAY WEATHER OUTLOOK OU FRI SAT SUN

Thursday, as light rain moves in from the west during the day.

Temperatures of 11C London, 12C in Cardiff, LC in Manchester, 10C in Belfast and in Edinburgh.

OUTLOOK: Dull



FOUR spears taken from an Aboriginal community by James Cook and Joseph

Banks during their first contact with Australia are being repatriated. They will be handed over at a ceremony at Trinity College, Cambridge, to representatives from the La Perouse and

Gweagal Aboriginal communities. Ray Ingrey, Gujaga Foundation director, said their return to "the rightful people" was a "momentous occasion".

The spears were taken in 1770 and given to Trinity College a year later. Direct descendants of the Gweagal people who crafted the spears more than 250 years ago will be present at the bash in Trinity's Wren Library.

Mr Ingrey, a Dharawal person from Mr Ingrey, a Dharawai person from the La Perouse Aboriginal community, said: "The spears were the first point of European contact, particularly British contact with Aboriginal Australia. "For us, it's a momentous occasion that

where Australia's history began, in 1770 on the shores of Botany Bay at Kurnell, the spears that were undoubtedly taken

without permission are returned to the rightful people." Noeleen Timbery, from the La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council, added: "They are an important connection to our past, our traditions, and cultural practices."





FUN-loving Sydney Sweeney wore a shirt that issued an apology for having "great tits" while on holiday with friends.

The Euphoria star shared a carousel of snaps on Instagram from her getaway in Mexico, including one of her wearing a grey sweatshirt that read: "Sorry for By VIOLET NICHOLS

having great tits and correct opinions."
In the other pictures, Sydney, 26, showed off her toned body in a brown bikini and danced brown bikini and danced braless on the beach in a ruffled tan crop top and midi skirt as a mariachi band played a live show behind her.

Several fans reacted to the actress's choice of clothing in her comments section.

Haters

"Are you really sorry tho?" asked one user.
"That shirt says it all, greetings to haters haha," added another.
"Syd, where did you get that AWESOME sweatshirt?! I need it!," wrote a third user.
"Sweatshirt was made for you!," said a fourth fan.

By VIOLET NICHOLS news@sundaysport.co.uk

The babe's shady top comes just days after Hollywood producer Carol Baum criticised the actress's looks and

the actress's looks and acting skills.

The producer, who also teaches at the USC School of Cinematic Arts, slammed Sydney's 2023 comedy Anyone But You, calling it "unwatchable".

"I said to my class, 'Explain this girl to me. She's not pretty, she

She's not pretty, she can't act. Why is she so hot?'" she said following a screening of her 1988 film Dead Ringers.

But the Immaculate star clapped back at the hate that it was "sad" that Baum chose to "attack another woman".

Salmon spunk O-shot helps with orgasms!

WOMEN are paying \$400 to have SALMON SPUNK injected into their MINGES – to help their floundering

their MINGES – to help their floundering sex lives.

Amanda Azzopardi, an aesthetic nurse who runs clinics across the UK, said: "A lot of older women come to me and say they are no longer having any kind of sexual arousal. So, we do the 'O-shot' and they are reporting stronger and more frequent orgasms, increased natural lubrication and greater sexual arousal."

An "O-shot" is a non-surgical treatment intended to rejuvenate the vagina and increase sexual arousal and is

the vagina and increase sexual arousal and is alleged to typically show results after two to four sessions.

DNA extracted from salmon sperm "has potent regenerative qualities".

Friends star Jennifer Aniston, 55 (above), revealed she once had a salmon-sperm facial, admitting she will "try almost anything" to keep her skin looking young.



Perv admits tug on high street

A MAN has admitted exposing his private parts and furiously masturbating in a town centre.

Jamie Beattie, 34, of

Hawick, was in a car in the Scottish Border town's high street around 5.30pm on August 11 last year when he was seen by

a member of the public. Jedburgh Sheriff Court heard the passer-by took pictures of the incident and alerted the police.

Sentence has been deferred on Beattle – who pleaded guilty to a charge of public indecency – until next month, for background reports.









MAN frustrated that paramedics would not treat an abscess on his arse hijacked their ambulance

and crashed it into a motel.
Levi Ihimaera was on a court-imposed curfew at the time he smashed his way into

time he smashed his way into the vehicle which was parked at the Microtel Motel in Hamilton, New Zealand, on November 26.

His lawyer, Elisa Saunders, told Judge Paul Mabey, KC, in the Hamilton Court that he wasn't sure whether he was allowed to leave his home on medical grounds so called an ambulance. However, paramedics who attended said the infection wasn't worth going to hospital for and instead told him to go to his GP. Thirty minutes later the staff went back to their ambulance. Ihimaera followed them so they locked themselves inside the ambulance, concerned about his behaviour.

He sat on the metal step at the

behaviour. He sat on the metal step, at the

By MILES PLATTING news@sundaysport.co.uk

back of the ambulance, for about 10 minutes.

He then got up, grabbed a metal grille from a nearby manhole, and threw it through the front left passenger window, shattering it. One of the victims, in the driver's seat, got out and fled.

Ihimaera reached inside the window and unlocked the door before getting in the driver's seat.

However, unknown to Ihimaera another medic was hiding in the back of the vehicle. Ihimaera reversed the vehicle out on to the street before driving it forward and crashing it into the motel.

He did that again, causing "significant" damage to the ambulance. The second victim managed to get out through a side door and run to safety.

Meanwhile, Ihimaera got out and sat on the footpath where he was arrested by police a short time later.

The 33-year-old appeared for

sentencing in court on a raft of charges, including 13 for shoplifting and theft, but also intentional damage and theft of

intentional damage and theft of an ambulance.

Battling to save him from a prison sentence, Ms Saunders told Judge Mabey that her client had spent every year since he was 17 doing stints in prison, rather than getting the help he needed. "It's complicated offending because he's a complicated person."

Extreme

Saunders said the ambulance

Saunders said the ambulance offending came about as Ihimaera had quite a "bad abscess" around the site on his buttocks where he gets his medication injected.

Judge Mabey said he was prepared to give Ihimaera a chance but told him if he didn't start addressing his "extreme need for help" for his issues he would go back to jail again.

Ihimaera, who had already served four months in custody, was sentenced to two years intensive supervision.

GAGS

THIS Morning fans were stunned when a man claiming to have Britain's largest penis appeared live on air with stunning presenter Cat Deeley, chatting about the size of his enormous STIFFIES.

enormous STIFFIES.
Presenter Cat, 47, and co-host
Ben Shephard, 49, were
interviewing well-endowed
Matt Barr, who says his willy
measures over 11ins" on flop
and over TWELVE INCHES
when erect inside a penis pump.
His impressive Johnson also

has a circumference – or girth – of over 7.75ins.

But Matt said having a big

knob isn't as easy as some might think. And Cat, married to Irish

comic Patrick Kielty since 2012, agreed, saying: "Bigger isn't

LEAVING VIEWERS STUNNED:

Cat (*right*) chats to Matt Barr

agreed, saying: Bigger isn't always better."
Fans were divided by the segment, with one writing on Twitter: "Cat Deeley saying '12 inches when erect' is now my wintere." my ringtone.

Others were less impressed, as one viewer posted: "This has been done before. Are they doing this for the shock value... it's just embarrassing at this time of day," while another said, "What a thing to talk about at this time of day, dear Lord."





Man shot in Maccies sauce row

A MAD McDonald's customer shot another diner's little finger off because he didn't get sauce with his order.

Wesley Bullock, 48, was hit with aggravated battery and burglary after the wild fast-food feud in Zephyrhills, Florida.

Bullock was so ticked off he didn't get his sauce that he walked up to the drive-up window at the restaurant and began screaming at an employee on Tuesday — when the victim intervened and tried to calm him down.

That's when cops said he went off on the

intervened and tried to calm him down.

That's when cops said he went off on the man, grabbing him by the throat, punching him and getting into a brawl until McDonald's staffers were able to break up the scuffle.

But Bullock then followed the victim to a nearby petrol station, where he pointed a silver handgun at the man — only to have the weapon misfire.

Bullock then allegedly pistol-whipped the victim.

Bullock allegedly got off one shot, which struck the victim's little finger.

Bullock was remanded at the Pasco County Jail.

London girls struggling to find partner

YOUNGER women in London have a harder time finding a partner than anywhere else in the UK, according to a leading demographer.

Stephen J Shaw, a data scientist whose documentary Birthgap explores declining birth rates globally, analysed a sample of women aged 25 to 35, who were surveyed in 2023 on their attitudes towards starting a family.

their attitudes towards starting a family. In London, women aged 25 to 35 outnumber their male equivalents by 7%, arguably giving men more choice in the straight dating market. In 2022, the Office for National Statistics found the Borough of Wandsworth

Mational Statistics found the Borough of Wandsworth had the highest ratio of young women to men in the country, with 33% more females in their twenties. Lambeth had the next largest ratio, with a 13.4% difference, followed by Hackney and Islington.

Mr Shaw said there might be a "London effect" impacting the search for a family-planning partner, even indicating that relocation from the capital "may improve the likelihood of finding a suitable partner.















Claims Guinness Facebook page is 'obsessed with boobs'...

PURIST Guinness fans are up in

arms over claims that a Facebook page dedicated to the Irish stout is obsessed with BUSTERS!

The page – Guinness Community – has been criticised in the past for claiming to celebrate only the famous Irish stout, despite seemingly having an equally rampant obsession with women's breasts.

Irish stout, despite seemingly having an equally rampant obsession with women's breasts.

Guinness Community is a public Facebook group with almost 277,000 avid fans of the black stuff.

People upload pictures of their pints in the hope that others will rate them.

"I'm not even part of this group, yet seeing every other post on my timeline. This group ain't about Guinness, y'all just thirsty for boobie traps lol," one Facebook user droned.

However, some members fought back, with one posting: "And that's a problem?"

"And your point?" another asked, while a third added, "This group's gonna get banned in the next week or two, let's be honest."

It follows a spike in people uploading pictures of their pints or cans of Guinness as well as eye-popping extras.

The Facebook community is "dedicated to celebrating and sharing our love for the iconic Irish stout", according to its profile, but another member moaned some people use their assets as an unfair advantage.

"The difference between content for the intended community and content that the Guinness Community really want," they wrote.

The user shared his own post

wrote.

The user shared his own post and a screenshot of one that shows two pints of Guinness held by a girl with a plunging neckline.





Tourist falls into volcano

A TOURIST plunged 250 feet to her death after tripping while taking photos on the edge of an

active volcano.

The woman, identified as 31-year-old Chinese citizen Huang Lihong, was with her husband on a guided tour of Ijen — a volcano park in East Java, Indonesia — when she tumbled deep into the

crater.

The tour guide later told authorities that Lihong had initially kept a safe distance from the edge of the volcano after being repeatedly warned of the dangers while posing for her

photographs.

But she then started walking backward to inch closer — then accidentally stepped on her long clothing, tripped and fell into the mouth of volcano, plunging to hei inevitable death.









Fraud couple 'made' \$1m scratchcard

A COUPLE tried to

A COUPLE tried to claim that they had a million-winning scratchcard – after taping two losing cards together.

Kira Lee Enders, 36 (above), went to the Florida Lottery's Pensacola office and claimed she won a \$1 million prize from the 500X The Cash scratchcard.

"The ticket had

the 500X The Cash scratchcard.

"The ticket had obvious alterations and was crudely pieced together from two separate cards," the Escambia County Sheriff's office said.

Deputies allege that Enders ripped the two tickets, which were non-winners, and put them together to make it look like she had a winning ticket.

She wrote her full name and address on the ticket and signed it under the penalty of perjury.

Cops nicked Enders and her boyfriend, Dakota Jones, 31.

Enders continued to insist she did not intentionally commit

Insist she did not intentionally commit any fraud as doing so "would be dumb and that's how you go to jail", as the pair were charged with forgery, fraud and theft, and will appear in court will appear in court next month.

NHS Trust in 'racist' trans row

BOSSES at an NHS trust BOSSES at an NHS trust said patients who object to sharing loos with people of the opposite sex were as bad as RACISTS. Internal advice at

Cambridge University Hospitals said "concerns alone" should not stop trans people being treated as their "acquired

or affirmed" gender.
Their guidelines on transgender care adds:
"Just as the trust will not adapt practice in light of racist concerns expressed as discomfort, so it will not adapt practice in light of transphobic concerns

expressed as discomfort.
"This includes toilets,
changing rooms, and same sex accommodation.

sex accommodation."
Tory MP Nick Fletcher
said: "This NHS policy
document is one of the
most shocking I have
seen. It compares women who care about the privacy, dignity, and safety of vulnerable

women patients to racists."

And the Department of
Health said: "This is very concerning. Biological sex matters and patients should not have to share sleeping accommodation with others of the opposite sex, and should have access to separate facilities."





Worst excuse for murder *EVER*... AWAITING SENTENCING: rv Sanders (left) and

A FISHERMAN choked his friend to death because he believed the pal planned to feed him to a bigfoot.

Larry Sanders, 55, had been out fishing for catfish with his high school buddy Jimmy Knighten, 52, in July 2022 when he claims to have appeted to have appeted to be been out fishing for catfish with his high school buddy Jimmy Knighten, 52, in July 2022 when he claims to be appeted to have spotted a 12ft-tall sasquatch tromping around downstream.

downstream.

The friends got into an argument over a fish swimming in the South Canadian River – about 100 miles southeast of Oklahoma City — and thought his pal was summoning the mythical beast to gome and eat beast to come and eat

beast to come and eat him.

During the trial, Sanders told the court he suspected Knighten was planning to drown him and float his bady, depressing the control of the same planning to the same plann

drown him and float his body downstream to feed the bigfoot. A brawl between the men broke out and Sanders grabbed his pal by the throat and strangled him until he turned blue and died, he told core. he told cops.
Sanders told police
he kept Knighten in a

chokehold until he stopped breathing while a tribe of bigfoot watched, Justin Brown, a special agent with the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation said

Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, said during the trial.

Sanders claimed he then raised his hands in victory to show the upright walking apes he'd won the fight, the agent said.

"Larry claimed that while at the river, he discovered that Jimmy intended to feed him to the sasquatch," Sanders told the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation.

"Larry and Jimmy fought for an extended amount of time on the ground.

ground.

"Larry confirmed he killed Jimmy by choking him to death near the

Sanders's have insisted that he

Knighten was trying to take control of the situation in a heated moment but didn't mean to kill his

VICTIM:

didn't mean to kill his friend.
His attorneys had previously planned to use an insanity defence, but scrapped the claim after Sanders was shown to understand "right from wrong".
A first degree murder conviction was handed down by Judge Steve Kessinger and Sanders ow faces a life sentence

now faces a life sentence without parole when he is sentenced in June.

Pretty women make men 'more honest'

PRETTY female faces make men behave more

honestly, a study shows. Researchers found male participants in an experiment cheated less often when presented with a picture of a beautiful woman.

A total of 110 men were

given a questionnaire with an image of a woman attached. Half were shown an attractive woman's face, while the others saw someone plain-looking. The ones shown the

The ones shown the pretty lady answered questions more honestly. Professor Zeev Shtudiner, who led the study from Ariel University in Israel, said the results align with beauty premium theory where positive moral judgments are made about beautiful people.

A SCHOOL dinner lady pulled over by cops for a routine traffic stop ended up being nicked on

routine traffic stop ended up being nicked on child sex charges.

Police pulled over Makayla Ann Anderton, 26, in Madison County, Alabama, and found a 15-year-old pupil from the school where she worked in the passenger seat.

And when the officers called in the stop, they found out Anderton was wanted.

She was charged with numerous sex crimes against the juvenile that took place over the past two months.

According to police, Anderton began engaging



According to police,
Anderton began engaging
the victim in conversations
that became sexual in
nature, the sheriff's office
said. The victim and
suspect then exchanged
numerous photographs,
videos and explicit texts.
Anderton also met the

Anderton also met the victim several times and engaged in various sex acts, the sheriff's office added.





Danes last in Europe to ban animal bonks

DENMARK'S infamous dog brothels are closing their doors after lawmakers finally banned animal sex.

The former Viking nation was the only country in Europe where sex with animals was not illegal — making it a mecca for bestialists.

Those voting for the bill said Denmark did not want to remain the last northern European country where bestiality

last northern European country where bestiality was legal, as this was attracting depraved animal sex tourists.

"There are often reports of organised animal sex shows, clubs and animal brothels taking place in Denmark." the Danish Ethical Council for Animals said in a report, while adding it had not been able to verify any report.

The bill amends a previous ban on

previous ban on intercourse that harms animals, something Farm Minister Dan Jorgensen argued was difficult to prove.

DOG-SEX GANG

THREE teenage boys, who cannot be named because of their age, have been nicked in the Mexican city of Mexicali and charged with shagging dogs.

























Cop deleted sex footage shot on duty

A RANDY cop deleted

A RANDY cop deleted bodycam footage which showed him shagging a woman while on patrol. Nicholas Duty, 35 (above), was arrested and charged with destroying evidence in Columbus, Ohio, and will remain in federal detention while he faces up to 20 years if convicted. Duty was suspended

convicted.

Duty was suspended with pay on March 24 as part of an ongoing investigation that began in February. It's claimed he delated footage of at least two interactions with women including

least two interactions with women, including one that was a sexual encounter, the US Attorney's office said. Federal prosecutors said Duty had been on duty, wearing his police uniform and in a marked police cruiser. marked police cruiser during the interactions. A body camera is considered part of the

uniform for patrol

uniform for patrol officers.
In a statement, the Columbus Division of Police said that the department "acknowledges the gravity of the situation" and that "swift and appropriate" discipline will be imposed on any officer who violates the law or the department's standards. standards.

Girl helped by her granny in school attack

A GRANNY helped her granddaughter beat up a fellow pupil at a primary school.

Police in Mt. Morris Township, Michigan, said the grandmother and the girl were dropped off at McMonagle Elementary School for a behavioural meeting.

The gran saw another girl her granddaughter was not getting along with, so she and her granddaughter followed the girl into the toilets where the grandmother is accused of holding down the girl while her relative punched the victim.

McMonagle Elementary School spokesperson Jamal Bransford said in a statement that no other children were injured after the incident and that administrators are investigating how the grandmother managed to bypass security protocols and gain unauthorised access to the school premises.

Meanwhile, the grandmother was taken into police custody and is being held at the



CRASHES INTO NEIGHBOUR'S



A LUST-crazed woman forced her way into a male neighbour's home and sought to initiate a threesome with the victim and his girlfriend. Police were sent to an apartment complex in Monroe, Louisiana, and told by the male householder that

upon answering a knock at his door, an "unknown neighbour" forced her way into the residence.

way into the residence.

The victim said te woman "began trying to have sexual activities with him and his girlfriend," according to a probable cause affidavit.

While the alleged late night incursion, however, did not result in any three-way action, a woman

did end up in handcuffs.

A police search of the area located the female suspect at a nearby

the female suspect at a nearby convenience store.

She was identified by cops as Shadonna Rayshonette Heard, 31 (left) and the male victim later "confirmed Heard as the suspect", police added.

Heard was arrested and charged with unsuthorised entry of an

with unauthorised entry of an inhabited dwelling and several lesser crimes including disturbing the peace, criminal damage, and

resisting an officer.

Heard remains locked up in the local parish jail.







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<u>What's the point</u>

of these

IF your missus is getting right on your tits again but is also an enthusiastic fan of toast, I may have a solution...

Book a couple of tickets to the US, look for the signpost marked "Maine" and point your nose in that direction.

I can offer three interesting facts about Maine:

I can offer three interesting facts about Maine:

1. Even though acclaimed horror writer Stephen King lives here, there are no killer clowns in its drains.

2. They like eating lobsters called, highly originally, Maine lobsters.

3. But not nearly as much as they love scoffing margarine.

And why would any of this matter? Because of "scientists" and "researchers", that's why.

We are now used to the idea of our youngsters trotting off to university to indulge themselves in three years of accumulative debt creation up to around £50,000.

We accept that in return for that we will then be able to approach the bar at the Dog and Duck and proudly declare that Justin Jr has achieved a 2nd in David Beckham Studies.

Eyeliner

Eyeliner

Eyeliner

We know that the lecturers will be on strike for most of those three years and that if the Government doesn't lock our expensive offspring up for at least an entire one of them, with no discount, at least they'll also eventually return home, not only with goth jumpers and eyeliner, but with healthy doses of anxiety and depression and a feeling that the world will end in two days' time because that's what one of their blue-haired lecturers told them, during an otherwise vital Zoom lesson on the merits of a quickly taken free kick from 42 yards out in a crosswind.

Whether or not any of that is of any use to your child, to the uni, to fellow students, to education, or to mankind in general, is merely by the by.

It may very well render the produce of your genes as capable for life in the 21st century as chocolate is to the creation of fireguards, and further human enlightenment by not even the slightest of increments.

But that's not the point.

Because at least the kid will have had "the experience" of hanging out with rich left-wing acne-ridden dickheads called Tarquin who will believe any old shit if it's coming out of a socialist's mouth.

Like dangling from motorway bridges, chucking glitter, pretending a man is a woman, glueing themselves to grandma, shrieking about demands to grandma, shricking about demands wanted and when, and, like gurning maniacs, adoring some weird trading set-up in Brussels, are all somehow good ideas to save the world.

Just like stripping off and streaking at footy and cricket matches in the 1970s led to the collapse of the Berlin Wall – well, in their demented minds, anyway.

anyway.
Which brings me rather smoothly—margarine smoothly—back to Maine, that windswept place in the most north-easterly of the United States.

Divorced

According to figures from the US Department of Agriculture and published in January's edition of The Journal of Culinary Chemistry and Sociological Studies, there is direct correlation between how many people get divorced in Maine and how many people eat margarine.

A "fact" so useless that it is beyond

comprehension - and which, actually, it is, because that's merely what an Artificial Intelligence programme has

deduced after having crunched some entirely random numbers.

Thanks to AI, we can now find any old statistics to back up any old argument, no matter how mad, irrelevant, or nonsensical.

But when the computer says "yes" o its own insane questions, that's when we need to worry.
And besides, an Englishman

And besides, prefers butter.

EMAIL ME: justin@sundaysport.co.uk LLOW ME ON TWITTER:



RING STAR: Ryan

SHARING HIS HAPPY NEWS: Ryan's tweet



Strip boss facing jail for dealing

A DODGY strip club boss is accused of drugging customers, charging thousands to their bank and credit cards and filming them engaging in sex acts with erotic dancers.
Luiggi Canessa, 46 (above), of Shenanigans Gentlemen's Club in Albany, New York state, was busted for selling methamphetamine to an FBI informant.

"Men would go into the club as customers and leave as victims," Assistant US Attorney Jonathan Reiner said at the detention hearing for Canessa, who faces a federal drug charge.

for Canessa, who faces a federal drug charge. Staff would secretly drug customers, and swipe their cards for up to £8,000 while they were passed out, Reiner said.

Investigators seized four guns from Canessa's home as he was arrested, and

Canessa's nome as ne was arrested, and found cocaine, 1,000 ecstasy pills and around £30,000 in cash.

He admitted selling

meth, cocaine, weed and MDMA from his home, and now faces up to 40 years in prison if he is convicted.

Uber banned Swastika girl

A WOMAN has banned from using Uber taxis as she's called SWASTIKA. Swastika Chandra

Swastika Chandra explained her first name meant "good luck" in Sanskrit and where she grew up in Fiji it was quite a common name. But Uber banned her account due to it being a "potentially offensive" word. Swastika understood her name's association

her name's association with Adolf Hitler's Nazi Party, but is proud of it and wouldn't change it.

and wouldn't change it.
"They don't know that
the Hindus used it for
thousands of years before
Hitler used it in the wrong

way," she explained.
Uber let her rejoin, but
only after The Hindu Council intervened and Chandra was supported by the Attorney General of New South Wales in Australia.



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GAP V OW

NOW the leftie loons have decided that DOGS are racist. City-dwelling dog owners are marking their "colonial" territory with pet pooches who are "gentrifying" some neighbourhoods, woke critics have claimed in a bizarre online debate.

Sparking the Sparking the

controversy was a story in internet mag The Cut that delves into

the growing hostility between dog owners and dog-free folk in New York. The article quotes Mia, of Prospects Lefferts Gardens, the proud owner of two terriers, who noticed a growing anti-dog sentiment brewing on her

community Facebook group. One post about picking up dog shite eventually spiralled into bonkers accusations that the pooches were actually "gentrifying the neighbourhood". Mia wondered: "Are

they saying that only white people have dogs?"
Another woman with an off-leash dog was apparently confronted in Prospect Park by someone filming her with her phone. "She was asking me why I thought I was special, why my dog didn't need to be leashed. Was it because of my white privilege?" she posted

A tweet then waded into the debate claiming: "Dogs in large cities are

essentially settler-colonial
– a way for their owners to
move into and occupy
more of the urban space
than they are allotted
while making it everyone
else's problem."

"Settler-colonial" is a
term recently adopted in
far-left activist circles to
deery everything from
gentrification to poor environmental stewardship
and even capitalism itself.
It's essentially another
way of saying "racist".





Dear Ava.

I'M was sitting stark naked on the sofa in my flat the other day and the nipples on the end of my 23-year-old pert breasts were erect and covered in raspberry jam.

I got jam all over my fingers and slowly sucked them then smeared more of the stuff all over my boobs.

It was a family-sized jar of jam but I was determined to work my way through it, shoving my fingers in deep and pulling out great dollops to use on myself.

Naturally, I spread my legs and smeared the jam over my shaved pussy and worked three fingers up my jam-filled hole.

I push my fingers in harder and harder, then got more jam and smeared my clit with the stuff, rubbing furiously till I came to a sticky climax.

Then I licked my fingers clean of jam and my juices before having a much-needed shower.

Then I licked my might contained having a much-needed shower.

I love it, but is my fetish too weird, do you think?

FK, Hants

Ava savs...

IT might get you in a pickle one day!

Dear Ava,

MY mate's girlfriend is gorgeous – a busty blonde

MY mate's girlfriend is gorgeous — a busty blonde in her early 20s.

I'd wanted to give her one for ages and a month or so ago I did.

We were both at a party, and her boyfriend was working away. She invited me back to her place and I knew what she was after.

After a few minutes snogging on the couch, she got my cock out and slurped along its length before I returned the favour and then entered her from behind.

I saw her a couple of times after that, and

From behind.

I saw her a couple of times after that, and she's phoned me and told me she wants to leave my pal for me.

I'm tempted, but I'm not sure if I could do the dirty on my mate. What should I do?

TF, Merseyside

Ava says...

IT'S as good a time as any to say no.

I'm in a sticky spot over choclate sex!

Dear Ava.

MY girlfriend surprised me the other week when she bought some Creme Eggs and put one up her fanny – and told me to eat it out!

I have to say the chocolate and fondant filling tasted even

and fondant filling tasted even better.

She loved it, too, and as a another special treat she melted down one of her left-over Easter eggs and covered my cock with molten chocolate.

Then she sucked me off until she got a mouthful of my hot white chocolate sauce.

Later on she asked me to take her from behind – and ordered me to slip my massive knob into her tight chocolate starfish!

The only problem now is that she only gets horny when there

horny when there is chocolate involved in our sex games – she was absolutely bloody rampant at Easter!

Up until then we'd just have boring "missionary" sex — with no chocolate or food of any kind needed.

How can I make her more horny without getting sweet treats all over the bedding?

PM, Glasgow

Ava says...

KEEP a box of antiseptic wipes in the bedroom and try not to get it on the valance!

Manchester M32 0QJ

www.143sex

I'm tempted because they are all fit lads. But my friends say he's just using me and that I shouldn't see him

JH, email

\$

SEEMS to me you've got plenty to offer him, so why not.

Dear Ava,

years and recently found out my hubby was having

A month ago I had a phone call from my mum saying she couldn't get through to my sister – who lives just round the corner

check and when I arrived at the house at 10pm, all the lights were off except one in the bedroom.

We have keys to each other's houses so I crept upstairs to the bedroom, where her door was ajar and I saw two figures
writhing on the bed.
And I was horrified to see

that her lover was my

She was groaning with pleasure and I stood and watched as they had sex in several positions – some of them were completely new to me - before I crept back

midnight, he said he had been to the pub with his mates, the bloody liar.

I don't know whether to leave him or have an affair myself.

BW, Birmingham

Ava says...

YOU'RE going to have to have it out with them both.







































































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 7. Ingenious stratagem (8)

 8. Wolf-like cry (4)

 10. Red wine (6)

 11. Continent (6)

 14. Stripling (3)

 16. Afterwards (5)

 17. High (4)

 19. Aspect (5)

 21. Piece of turf (5)

 22. Filleted (5)

 23. Depend (4)

 26 Rope-making fibre (5)

 28. Congeal (3)

 29. Tolerates (6)

 30. Recollect (6)

 31. Portent (4)

 32. Tires out (8)

 33. Oozed (6)

DOWN

- DOWN

 1. Surgical knife (6)
 2. Of flowers (6)
 3. Stop (4)
 4. Small stream (7)
 5. Fulcrum (5)
 6. Cut off (5)
 8. Vestibule (4)
 9. Marry (3)
 12. Rodent (3)
 12. Rodent (3)
 13. Oyster's gem (5)
 15. Bird (5)
 18. Improvise (2-3)
 19. Filipper (3)
 20. Fish (3)
 21. Dreary (7)
 22. Not good (3)
 23. Ebb (6)
 24. Style and vigour (4)
 25. Screamed (6)
 26. Rescues (5)
 27. Vision (5)
 28. Jewel (3)
 30. Boy's name (4)

- 1. THE Government plans to overhaul the sick to overhaul the sick note system, meaning Brits may soon have to use what to sign themselves off work? a) Credit card b) Urine sample c) An app d) Stool sample

- 2. PUNTERS awaiting the opening of which UK city's new £365million Co-op live arena have been left outraged by a leaked bar menu showing the cost of a pint in the venue will be £8.95?
 a) Edinburgh
 b) London
 c) Cardiff
 d) Manchester

- 3. WHICH two footy stars have been inducted into the Premier League Hall of Fame to join Ashley Cole on the 274 honours list?
- on the 2024 honours list?
 a) John Terry and
 Andy Cole
 b) Ryan Giggs and
 Steven Gerrard
 c) Frank Lampard and
 Roy Keane
 d) Thierry Henry and
 Rio Ferdinand
- 4. WHICH iconic ITV 4. WHICH iconic ITV
 drama has come to an
 end after 14 years on
 our screens?
 a) Unforgotten
 b) Vera
 c) Van der Valk
 d) Midsomer Murders

- 5. SPOTIFY announced

ANSWERS

CROSSWORD
ACROSS: 1. Loofah;
T. Afflice; 8. How!;
T. O. Claret; 11. Europe;
14. Lad; 16. Later;
17. Tall; 19. Facet;
23. Reis; 26. Sisal;
30. Recall; 31. Omen;
32. Exhausts; 33. Seeps
30. Revall; 31. Omen; 2. Floral; 3. Halt; 6. Sever; 8. Hall; 12. Rat; 13. Pearl 15. Fri; 20. Cod; 21. Doleful; 22. 8 22. Doleful; 23. 8

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	1	3			2	7		
	3					8		
	8		3		6			7
		4	1	9			3	1

which singer's track Fortnight, featuring Post Malone, became its most streamed song in a most streamed so single day? a) Beyonce b) Rihanna c) Taylor Swift d) Bonnie Tyler

- 6. WHICH long-standing BBC newsreader has resigned from the corporation after nine
- months on sick leave?
 a) Huw Edwards
 b) Clive Myrie
 c) Rita Chakrabarti
 d) Kenneth Kendall

- 7. QUEEN Camilla is Colonel-in-Chief of which Army regiment who she
- visited this week?
 a) King's Regiment
 b) Cheshire Regiment
- c) Royal Lancers d) Scottish Highland

- 8. WHICH Premier League club made an amazing club made an amazing attack on referees after their defeat at Everton, blaming the VAR for not getting three penalties? a) Tottenham b) Bournemouth c) Nottingham Forest d) Aston Villa
- 9. A SILVER casket 9. A SILVER casket believed to belong to which royal has gone on tour of Scotland? a) Elizabeth I b) Henry VIII c) George V d) Mary, Queen of Scots

- 10. AUSTRALIA renamed their embassy for the day after which children's TV
- a) Skippy b) Bluey
- c) Pingu d) Rolf Harris













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Old gaffer Nicholls tips Dan to be top man

RACING

PAUL Nicholls has admitted he feels a pang of sympathy for Dan Skelton if, as looks likely, Willie Mullins goes on to beat the pair to become

champion trainer.

Nicholls needs one more title to draw level with Martin Pipe on 15, while Skelton is chasing his first crown.

However, having won the Grand National at Aintree with I Am Maximus and the Scottish version with Macdermott, Mullins now has a cushion of almost £180,000 with a week to go.

And he is bringing a

strong team to Sandown at the weekend, including star two-mile chaser El Fabiolo who suffered a rare blip at the
Cheltenham Festival.
Nicholls said: "All credit

Nicnolis sadic "All credit to him, he's got a big team of people and horses, particularly horses, and it's become a bit of a numbers game.

"The numbers they can

produce to run across the board is immense really. It's a job to compete with

"I remember back in the years I had all those good ones and you'd win the trainers' championship just by winning those big

races.

"The last few years, it has just been about getting the best out of your team.

"Now it's very difficult. If

row it's very difficult. If you win all those big races, like Champion Hurdles and Gold Cups and Grand Nationals, you are going to be champion trainer with a small

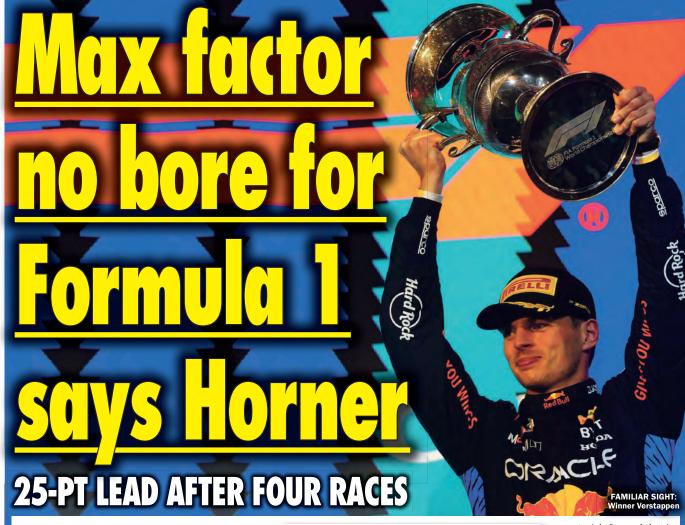
number of runners.

"It's not going to get any easier with the number of horses and the class of horses they have at their disposal. "It's an amazing feat to

do but with the ammunition they've got, and the numbers, we're up

and the numbers, we're up against it.
"I feel a bit for Dan because he said to me on Saturday that he thought the first time he'd beat me in the trainer." in the trainers' in the trainers' championship, he'd be champion – well he hasn't yet, because we've got Saturday and I'm not too far behind him, so I'm not going to let him rest on his laurels – but in a normal laurels – but in a normal year, he'd be champion trainer.

"He could end up finishing second having beaten me and I know he's mortified, but he's had a good season and he'll get his chance another day."



CHRISTIAN Horner has knocked back criticism that Max Verstappen's stranglehold on Formula One is "boring" by describing star his driver's unstoppable form as а "golden moment".

Verstappen claimed his fourth win from the five rounds so far this season with a commanding drive at Sunday's Chinese at Sunday's Chinese Grand Prix to establish a championship

lead.

The Dutch driver has failed to triumph at only two of the last 23 races staged in the sport, and he is the overwhelming favourite to secure a fourth world crown in as many seasons.

in as many seasons.

Speaking prior to Sunday's race, Lando Norris, who finished runner-up to Verstappen in Shanghai,

FORMULA ONE

admitted that seeing the "same driver win without a fight is boring", and a "turn-off" for fans.

nght is boring", and a "turnoff" for fans.

But addressing claims that Verstappen's dominance is damaging the sport, Red Bull team principal Horner said: "You have to appreciate success. Max is a special talent and this is a golden moment for him.

Pace

"As we have seen with every single driver in the past, it doesn't last forever. It is about enjoying the moment and being in the moment and there are no guarantees we can give him a car like this for the next five years

years.

"Max is just a metronome. The pace he showed last year, he has continued that through.

"And since the last Chinese Grand Prix in 2019, he has won 50 per cent of all the

races. He has won 21 out of the last 23 races. He is in fantastic form, at one with the car and the team and enjoying his racing."

Verstappen also won the season in Shanghai.

The dash to the chequered flag took place before qualifying for Sunday's main

event in a majo rejig this

event in a majo rejig this year.

Verstappen, 26, has often criticised the format, and although he agreed the new schedule is better than in previous years, he urged F1 bosses not to increase the number of sprints – which is set at six this season.

"The sprint format was

more straightforward that it has been but let's not overdo it," said the triple world champion.
"We are already doing 24

races in a season and six of these sprint events, too. I guess it sells better and the television audience numbers increase, but it also increases thepressureonthemechanics to ensure everything is tip-

"So, we have to deal with it, but let's not now think that we need 12 of these (sprints) because it will take its toll on people in the sport."

. Verstappen . Perez Leclerc . Sainz 76 69 58 Norris Piastri Russell Alonso 31 Hamilton 19 13. Hulkenberg

ING FOR SEA

SHAUN Murphy began his quest for a second world title in style as he cruised his way into the second round of the World Snooker with a 10-5 victory over Lyu Haotian at the Crucible.

the Crucible.

Murphystarted the session with a 6-3 lead and was looking to carry on where he left off when he punished China's Haotian from 38 points behind to pinch the opening frame to extend his advantage to four. advantage to four.

Murphy secured the next to make it five consecutive frames but Haotian won two

WORLD SNOOKER

out of the next three to extend

the tie slightly.

A relaxed Murphy did not sweat and – with the 2005 world champion just needing a solitary frame for the win - he wrapped it up in style with a break of 81 to put himself into the second round

of the tournament for the first time since 2021.

A relieved Murphy said: "I haven't won a match since I beat Kyren Wilson here in 2021.

"It's such a relief, it's so

rewarding and pleasing, I haven't won a match here for a few seasons. I'm delighted to have got that win and in the second round of the

the second round of the tournament."
Hossein Vafaei strongly criticised the conditions at the Crucible after crashing out in a 10-5 defeat by former champion Judd Trump.
The Iranian described the famous Sheffield venue as "smelly", compared its practice facilities to "like playing in a garage".
"Everything's so bad – if you ask me if I want to come

back nere, I would tell you no way," said Vafaei, who is no stranger to controversy after playing a rash break-off shot in his defeat by Ronnie O'Sullivan last year. "Forget the history, you

"Forget the history, you want to go somewhere really nice as a player. You walk round the Crucible and it smells really bad. You go to other countries, and everything is shiny. But here it's completely different.
"The practice room – do you see anything special? I feel like I'm practising in a garage."

garage.



SHEFFIELD United boss Chris Wilder says big decisions have been made as to which players will stay at the club and who will be leaving at the end of the season.

Wilder acknowledged his side's season was over after Saturday's 4-1 home defeat to relegation rivals Burnley left them rooted to the foot of the table, 10 points from safety with five games to play.

The Blades appointed Wilder for his second spell in charge of the club towards the end of last year and he revealed he has a firm idea of

By MARK NAYLOR

his plans for a summer clear-out.

He said: "It's arguably the biggest thing we've talked about since we came in and obviously it ramps up towards the end of the

season.
"I've got to say it's pretty difficult at the moment because you've g ot a group of players who are injured, a group out of contract, who possibly know their fate as it is

who possibly know their rate as reis.

"You've got a group of loan players as well, who possibly know they're going back to their parent club, and you've got a group of young players trying to find their feet in the Premier League.

"There's a lot of moving parts in there, so to bring those together during the week and on matchday is a challenge, which at times we've got right."

Wilder replaced Paul Heckingbottom in December after

Wilder replaced Paul Heckingbottom in December after the Blades had lost 11 of their first



league games following promotion.
Under Wilder, who led the club

from League One to the top flight in his first spell in charge, the Blades have won two of their 19

Blades have won two of their 19 league matches.

"We all have to take responsibility," he said. "Me, always, I'll take that responsibility. But come on players as well, you take a bit of responsibility.

"You play well. It's really simplistic.

"Do your job and here!"

"Do your job and have the courage when it's going against you to drag that back. Be a proper football player.

Defensive

"So yes, decisions have been made. I don't think there will many many changes to those now, but there are five games."
Wilder said it would further frustrate him if some of his underperforming players improved markedly during the run-in.
"Til be really disappointed if someone starts playing like (Lionel) Messi or (Cristiano) Ronaldo, or from a defensive point of view, Virgil van Dijk, in the last five games because I'll be saying: Where was it 15 games ago?" he said.

said.
"Where was it at the start of the

"Where was it at the start of the season?' So those decisions have been made over a period of time."

The Blades face a tough task in their bid to bounce back from Saturday's disappointment when they face Manchester United at Old Trafford on Wednesday.

Wilder added: "(The players) have had a recovery day today, but the feeling around the ground and the club was very, very down and negative after (the defeat to Burnley) and possibly as negative as it has been."





Prowse not proud about Palace shock

WEST Ham midfielder James Ward-Prowse vowed his side would bounce nis side would bounce back from their "embarrassing" 5-2 Premier League drubbing at Crystal Palace when they host Liverpool on Saturday.

The hosts were 3-0 up inside the first 20 minutes at Selhurst Park – in part thanks to an Emerson own goal – before Jean-Philippe Mateta made it four in the

Just one of the Irons' goals – scored by Antonio late in the first period – could be rightfully claimed by the visitors, who benefitted by a late benefitted by a late second-half own goal by Palace goalkeeper Dean Henderson.

A seething David Moyes did not mince his words after the contest, branding his side's display as one of the worst he had witnessed in his career and, while Ward-Prowse was more measured than his boss, he was no less dismaved.

Aggression

Ward-Prowse admitted:
"It was nowhere near good enough out on the pitch. It was embarrassing on our

"We had a fantastic we not a fantastic night in the week (Europa League), albeit we didn't get through, but we showed what I believe a West Ham team should look like.
"We were front-footed,

aggressive.

"You can talk about the way you play with the ball and stuff, but I think out of possession, we didn't show anywhere near enough aggression or togetherness and I think that ultimately cost us in the game.

Eighth-placed West Ham, who sit 12 points below Tottenham in the Europa League place, even before the Palace defeat already looked to require a near-perfect end to their season if they had any hope of securing another

By ANDY MILLOM

season of European football.

Moyes' men impressed in their 1-1 Europa League quarter-final second-leg draw with Bundesliga leaders Leverkusen on Thursday night, but like his manager, Ward-Prowse refused to use the turnaround as an excuse for Sunday's poor performance. He said: "If we want to

be a top team and be real be a top team and be real contenders for European places, you can't perform like that against one of the best teams in the world (Leverkusen) and then come here and get beat in

the way that we did.

"We have to consider what sort of team and what sort of players we want to be at this club, whether we want to be real European contenders or not."
The Hammers next host

title-chasing Liverpool, another side made acutely aware of Palace's aware or raiace's capability to throw a wrench in a club's ambitions after their own 1-0 loss to the Eagles at Anfield the previous week. Ward-Prowse added: "There's still lots of football to alou for and this football to alou for and the

football to play for and this is the business end of the season, so we know every game is magnified in that way, but I think it's a fantastic game to bounce back and hopefully give the fans something to



DURHAM SIGN SI

Peter Siddle has agreed to joinDurhamasareplacement for his injured compatriot Scott Boland.

Scott Boland.

Boland, 35, was the club's marquee overseas signing but managed just 13 wicketless overs on debut in the season opener against Warwickshire before breaking down with a fore breaking down with a foot

injury.

The club moved swiftly to draft a like-for-like replacement in the shape of 39-year-old veteran Siddle, who will be available for the

six Vitality County

next six vitality County Championship games in the north-east.

The veteran played 67 Tests for his country claiming 221 wickets and was a regular Ashes adversary for England, taking a memorable hat-trick at the start of the 2010/11 series. He also has a strong track

record in county cricket with Somerset, Essex and Lancashire with plenty of

Durham's director cricket, Marcus North said: "It was important we acted quickly to replace Scott Boland and we have done that with the addition of Peter Siddle for the County

Championship.
"It is very disappointing to lose Scott after just one game and we wish him all the best in his recovery from his

look forward welcoming Pete to Durham and watching him play a key part in our success on the field in the coming weeks.



- VEDNESDAY

 **FORDRALL Premier League, Everton
 v Liverpool Sky Sports Main Event
 and Sky Sports Premier League
 1900; National League, 180 v 180 c.
 NIT Sports 1 1830; Ligue 1, Lorient V
 Arris St Germain INT Sports 2
 1800, Monaco v Lille TNT Sports
 2 2000; Coppa Italia, Atalanta v
 Einredlina Premier Sports 1 2 1000.
- Fiorentina Premier Sports 1 2000. CRICKET: IPL, Delhi Capitals v Gujarat Titans — Sky Sports Cricket 1450.
- SNOOKER: World Championship, BBC Two 1000 & 1300 and Eurosport 1 1000 1425 & 1845
- TENNIS: ATP & WTA 1000 Madrid. IENNIS: AIP & WIA 1000 Madrid, Sky Sports Tennis and Sky Sports Main Event 1000. CYCLING: Tour of Turkey, Stage Four — Eurosport 2 1230: Tour de Romandie, Stage One — Eurosport 2 1420
- 1430. Basketball: NBA, TBC v TBC TNT
- Sports 1 0030 (Thurs). BASEBALL: MLB, Atlanta Braves v Miami Marlins TNT Sports 2 0000

- THURSONY
 FOOTBALL Premier League,
 Brighton v Manchester City, Sky
 Sports Main Event and Sky Sports
 Premier League 1790.
 CRICKET: IPL. Sunrisers Hyderabad
 V Royal Challengers Bengaluru —
 Sky Sports Cricket 1450.
 SNOOKER, Word Championship,
 BBC Two 1300 and Eurosport 1 1300
 s. 1865

- & 1845. RUGBY LEAGUE: Super League, St Helens v Huddersfield Sky Sports Action 1930. TENNIS: ATP & WTA 1000 Madrid,
- Sky Sports Tennis and Sky Sports Main Event 1000.
- Main Event 1000.
 GOLF: DP World Tour, The ISPS
 Handa Championship Sky Sports
 Golf and Sky Sports Main Event
 0400: PGA Tour, The Zurich Classic
 of New Orleans Sky Sports Golf
 1300: LET, The Investec South
 African Wanns's Onen Sky Sports African Women's Open – Sky Sports Golf 1200; LPGA, JM Eagle LA Championship – Sky Sports Golf
- CYCLING: Tour of Turkey, Stage Five

 Eurosport 2 1230; Tour de

 Romandie, Stage Two Eurosport 2
- AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL. Draft First Round — Sky Sports Main Event and Sky Sports Action 0100 BASKETBALL: NBA, TBC v TBC — TNT
- Sports 1 0030 (Fri).

 BASEBALL: MLB, Chicago Cubs v
 Houston Astros TNT Sports 1 1900.

- FOOTBALL: Championship, QPR v Leeds — Sky Sports Main Event and Sky Sports Football 1930; Serie A, TBC v TBC — TNT Sports 2 1930; Ligue 1, Montpellier v Nantes — TNT
- Ligue 1, Montpellier v Nantes TNT Sports 3 2000. CRICKET: IPL, Kolkata Knight Riders v Punjab Kings Sky Sports Cricket 1450.
- 1450. SNOOKER: World Championship, BBC Two 1000 & 1300 and Eurosport 1 1000, 1425 & 1845.
- RUGBY UNION: Gallagher Premiership, Bath v Saracens TNT Sports 1 1900. RUGBY LEAGUE: Hull KR v Wigan —
- Sky Sports Action 1930.

 TENNIS: ATP & WTA 1000 Madrid, Sky Sports Tennis and Sky Sports Main Event 1000. GOLF: DP World Tour. The ISPS
- GULT: UP World lour, the ISPS
 Handa Championship Sky Sports
 Golf and Sky Sports Main Event
 0400; PGA Tour, The Zurich Classic
 of New Orleans Sky Sports Golf
 1415 and Sky Sports Main Event
 2230; LET, The Investec South
 African Wanns's Onen Sky Sports
 African Wanns's Onen Sky Sports African Women's Open — Sky Sports Golf 1200; LPGA, JM Eagle LA Championship — Sky Sports Golf 2330
- CYCLING: Tour of Turkey, Stage Six Eurosport 2 1230; Tour de Romandie, Stage Three Eurosport 2 1430. HORSE RACING: Sandown — ITV 4
- 1310. AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL. Draft —
- Sky Sports Main Event and Sky Sports Action 0000 (Sat)
- BASKETBALL: NBA, TBC v TBC TNT
- Sports 2 2200.

 BASEBALL: MLB, Detroit Tigers v Kansas City Royals TNT Sports 4 1800.

- SATURDAY

 FOOTBALL: Premier League. West Ham v Liverpool TNT Sports 1 1100. Everton v Frentford Sky Sports Main Event and Sky Sports Main Event and Sky Sports Premier League 1700. Aston Villa v Chelsea TNT Sports 1 1900. Women's Championship, Hull v Ipswich Sky Sports Main Event 2000 and Sky Sports Football 1790. League One, TBC v TBC Sky Sports Main Event 2000 and Sky Sports Football 1790. League Wox, TBC v TBC Sky Sports Main Event and Sky Sports Football 1200. League Wox, TBC v TBC Sky Sports Main Event and Sky Sports Football 1465, National League, TBC v TBC TNT Sports 2 1709. Serie A TBC v TBC TNT Sports 3 1745. Laliga. Atletico Madrid v Athletic Bibao Premier Sports 1 1730. Reat Sociedad v Real Madrid TIV 4 and Premier Sports 2 1790. Bundesliga. Bayer Leverkusen v Sutthart Sky
- Premier Sports 2 1930; Bundesliga, Bayer Leverkusen v Stuttgart Sky Sports Football 1730; Ligue 1, Paris St Germain v Le Havre TNT Sports 2 1945
- CRICKET: IPI Delhi Canitals v CRICKEF. IPL. Delhi Capitals v Mumbai Indians — Sky Sports Cricket 1050, Lucknow Super Giants v Rajasthan Royals — Sky Sports Cricket 1450. SNOOKER. World Championship. BBC Two 1000 & 1900, BBC One & BBC Two Wales 1315 and Eurosport 11000 1405 e 1045
- 1 1000, 1425 & 1845.
- RUGBY UNION: Women's Six Nations, Ireland v Scotland - BBC Two NI 1415, France v England – BBC One 1620; Gallagher Premiership, Harlequins v Northampton – TNT
- Harlequins v Northampton TNT Sports 1 1500. TENNIS: ATP & WTA 1000 Madrid, Sky Sports Tennis and Sky Sports Main Event 1000. 60LF. DP World Tour, The LSPS Handa Championship Sky Sports Golf 0400 and Sky Sports Main Event 0530; PGA Tour, The Zurich Lease; of New Drigans Sky Classic of New Orleans — Sky Sports Golf 1600 and Sky Sports Main Event 2030; LET, The Invested
- Main Event 2039; Et. I, Ine Invested South African Women's Open Sky Sports Golf 1200; LPGA, JM Eagle LA Championship Sky Sports Golf and Sky Sports Main Event 2300. MOTORCYCLING: MotoGP, Spanish Grand Prix, Qualifying TNT Sports 2 0945, Sprint Race TNT Sports 2 1330.
- 1330. CYCLING: Tour of Turkey, Stage Seven Eurosport 2 1030; Tour de Romandie, Stage Four Eurosport 2
- MMA: UFC TNT Sports 1 0100
- (Sun) HORSE RACING: Sandown ITV 1 1330
- AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL, Draft —
- Sky Sports Action 1700.

 BASKETBALL: NBA, TBC v TBC TNT
- Spare Idall: NBA, IBC v TBC TNT Sports 4 1800. BASEBALL: MLB, New York Mets v St Louis Cardinals TNT Sports 4 2100.

FOOTBALL: Premier League, Tottenham v Arsenal – Sky Sports Tottenham v Arsenal – Sky Sports Premier League 1300 and Sky Sports Main Event 1400. Nottingham Forest v Manchester City – Sky Sports Main Event and Sky Sports Premier League 1600. Scottish Premiership, St Mirren v Rangers – Sky Sports Main Event 1130 and Sky Sports Forbial 11230. Dundee v Celtic – Sky Sports Forbial 11500. Women's Champions League, Paris St Germain v Lyon – TNT Sports 3 5100 - Women's Subresions League. St Germain v Lyon — TNT Sports 3
1500. Women's Super League.
Everton v Arsenal — BBC Two 1215.
Bristol City v Manchester City — Sty.
Sports Football 1830 and Sky Sports
Main Event & Sky Sports Premier
League 1930. Mational League, TBC:
LaLiga. Cadiz v Real Mallorca —
Premier Sports 1 1300. Granada v
Osasuna — Premier Sports 1 1515.
Villarreal v Ray Valtecano —
Premier Sports 1 1730. Real Betis v
Sevilla — Premier Sports 1 2000.
Bundeslüga. Borussia Bundesliga, Borussia Monchengladbach v Union Berlin -Sky Sports Football 1430, Mainz v Cologne – Sky Sports Football 1630, Darmstadt v Heidenheim – Sky Darmstadt v Heidenheim – Sky Sports Action 1820. Ligue 1. Metz v Lille – TNT Sports 3 1200. Rennes v Brest – TNT Sports 4 1600. Lyon v Monaco – TNT Sports 1800. Marseille v Lens – TNT Sports 1 2000. TBC v TBC – TNT Sports 3 2000.

TOP TIPS FOR ALL TODAY'S RACING



By MIKE FRANCIS

WILLIE Mullins continue his recent Scottish dominance when Loughglynn aims for victory in the British EBFGoldCastle'National **Hunt' Novices' Hurdle at** Perth.

Mullins is bidding to become the first trainer from Ireland to win the British jump trainers' crown since the great Vincent O'Brien did it in successive years in the

successive years in the 1950s.

The Closutton powerhouse had a four-timer at Ayr on Saturday to maintain his assault at the top of the leaderboard, mainly thanks to Macdermott's success in the Coral Scottish Grand National.

Contest

He travels further north on Wednesday as Loughglynn hopes to improve on his third in a Group Two at Fairyhouse

in March. Sounds Russian should be Sounds Russian should be prominentforRuthJefferson, with Brian Hughes on board in the six-horse contest over three miles, but the Irish raider is preferred.

Instit could make it a swift Listed race double for Mullins in the Robertson Homes Fair Maid Of Perth Mares' Chase.

The six-year-old has not



been in the winner's enclosure for more than a year, but has been knocking on the door this season, including a good second at Fairyhouse last month.

She faces tough opposition in the six-horse field, with Gordon Elliott's charge Riviere D'etel, Malina Girl for Gavin Cromwell and Juniper-trained by Anthony Honeyball – all battling for victory, while Apple Away and Aubis Walk complete the line-up.

line-up. Sword Of Fate is aiming to go one better than last year's second when returning for the Phil Nelson Capercaillie

Handicap Chase.
Returning to the venue of his last victory in August, the Leonard Kerr-trained 11-year-old should feel at home over two miles at Britain's northernmost

Britains
track.
At Uttoxeter, Hudson De
Grugy should benefit from a
recent third as he lines up for
the Carlsberg Marston's
Handicap Chase.
Gary Moore's charge

the Carlsberg Marston's Handicap Chase.
Gary Moore's charge finished three lengths behind Jet Plane, who went on to win again by 12 lengths at Market Rasen earlier this month before pulling up at Ayr on Saturday.
The Ayr race came too soon for Jet Plane, but Hudson De Grugy should be refreshed by a 46-day break and that subsequent form means he could get his nose in front this time round.
Flash Gorcombe is chasing a hat-trick of victories in just four weeks in the Nightjar Handicap Chase at Ludlow.

Debut

Debut

Robert Walford's seven-year-old eased to a seven-length triumph at Hereford on March 27 before pipping Western General by a nose at Taunton on April 11, despite moving up in class.

class.

Henry Oliver hopes jockey David Noonan can inspire success for Jessie Lightfoot on his debut run for the stable in the Charles Clark Memorial Handicap Chase.

The 10-year-old only recently joined Oliver's yard from Evan Williams, but he has been reunited with Noonan, who guided him to his last victory at Southwell in December 2022.

On the Flat at Catterick,

Vince L'Amour is targeting a second win in six days under David Allan following last week's success at Ripon, week's success at Ripon, despite dropping back to five furlongs for the Bet At racingtv.com Handicap.

SELECTIONS

BELLEWSTOWN: 4.45 Pinot Gris, 5.20 Herculaneum, 5.55 Instant Tendance, 6.30 Break The Boundary, 7.05 O'Faolains Glory, 7.40 Hunting Brook, 8.14 Withabitofluk. CATTERICK:

CALTERICK: 2.12
Tommytwohoots, 2.47 Moral
Standards, 3.17 Vince L'Amour,
3.47 The Dancing Poet, 4.17
Alafdhal, 4.50 Beauty Choice,
5.25 Clionia.
GOWRAN PARK: 4.00 Sea The

Folaris, 4.35 Dolce Far Niente, 5.05 Master Garvey, 5.40 Gypsy Woman, 6.15 Nativity Square, 6.50 Action Plan, 7.25 Game

Nation. LUDLOW: 2.00 Diskatek, 2.35 Chris Cool, 3.05 Flash Gorcombe, 3.35 Giulietta, 4.05 Special Dragon, 4.37 Faerie Cutlass, 5.10 Go On Chez, 5.45 Celtic Sea.

5-10 Go Un Chez, 5.45 Cettic Sea.
PERTH: 1.50 Dr Eggman, 2.20
Carrigeen Castle. 2.55
Loughglynn, 3.25 INSTIT (NAP),
3.55 Sword Of Fate, 4.25 Sunday
Soldier, 4.55 Topkapi Star.
TAUNTON: 4.42 Recoup, 5.15

IAUNTON: 4.42 Recoup, 5.15
Hazy Dream, 5.50 Jessie
Lightfoot, 6.25 Centara, 7.00
Bertie Wooster, 7.35 Hard Frost,
8.10 Phoenix Risen.
UTTOXETER: 3.59 It's Maisy,
4.30 Give Me A Boom, 5.00
Twillight Glory, 5.35 Hudson De
Grugy, 6.10 Damarta, 6.45
Walkinthecotswolds, 7.20 Grugy, 6.10 Damarta, 6.45 Walkinthecotswolds, 7.20 Walkadina, 7.50 Taxus Baccata.



JURGEN Klopp is hopeful fortune is on Liverpool's side for the Premier League run-in after their 3-1 victory at Fulham moved them joint top of the table with Arsenal.

the table with Arsenal.

The Reds scored through
Trent Alexander-Arnold,
Ryan Gravenberch and
Diogo Jota as they bounced
backfrom Thursday's Europa
League exit to Atalanta and
their Anfield defeat to
Crystal Palace.

Klopp admitted the title
race excites him, citing rivals
Man City and Arsenal, much
like Liverpool, will need luck

Man City and Arsenal, much like Liverpool, will need luck during an intense period.

Liverpool have five games left and Klopp said: "Maybe if we can keep it as exciting then in the end fortune is maybe on our side. We don't know. We have to try to win seemany games as somehow. as many games as somehow possible, to win as many points as somehow possible. "It is an intense season for

By MARK NAYLOR

all of us; everybody needs all of us; everybody needs luck in moments, each of the three teams need that. So, it will be an interesting race and so I am happy that we are in and that part I enjoy."

Cody Gakpo slipped Jota through in the 72nd minute before the Portugal attacker finished with a drilled first-time strille inter the better.

right-hand corner.

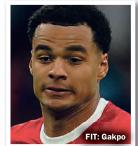
Klopp lauded the pair's availability ahead of their

final fixtures. "It is super

avanability anead of their final fixtures.

"It is super-cool to have Diogo back," Klopp added.
"He can play all three positions up front. It is as important that Cody is back. He wasn't injured, but he was a little bit struggling.
"He is now fully back. He is physically there, is extremely strong, keeps the ball and stuff like this, so that's really helpful as well."

Across Stanley Park, Everton winger Dwight McNeil admits the players



had a point to prove after the criticism they received following their humiliation at Chelsea. Even manager Sean Dyche

went public with some home truths he told the squad after the embarrassing 6-0 defeat at Stamford Bridge which left people questioning their professionalism.

responded with a successive home

victory after goals from Idrissa Gueye and McNeil beat fellow strugglers Nottingham Forest 2-0 and moved them five points clear of the valous ting representations.

moved them five points clear of the relegation zone.

"We knew our performance on Monday was nowhere near good enough. We were awful all game and we knew we had to make it right by getting three points," said the former Burnley winger.

Position

"Everyone was gutted about what happened on Monday. We assessed it and then we parked it straight away and to bounce back was

away and to bounce back was the main thing for the group and for the team's morale. "We are an experienced group, and a lot of the lads have been in this position before where we are, so we have got that experience behind us, which is always helpful.

"Luckily, we had another game in the same week, and it comes around fast. We got

three points but now we have

three points but now we have got to build on that."

After going 13 league matches without a win over four months Everton have now picked up two victories within the space of 16 days.

That has helped ease their relegation worries but safety has still not been secured and with a Merseyside derby at home to Liverpool on Wednesday followed by the visitof Brentford on Saturday they cannot afford to ease up.

visit of Brentford on Saturday they cannot afford to ease up. "The lads did well to grind out a difficult game and now we have got to build on that going into a big week ahead," added McNeil. "The five-point cushion is massive but we know there

"The five-point cushion is massive but we know there is still a lot that needs to be done. It is a job not done yet. "We know we need to win more games and we still need to perform. We need to get points on the board because that is what matters at this point in the season."

point in the season.

"Every game from now until the last day is massive."

- 1. In which divisions has British boxer Natasha Jonas won world titles?
- 2. Who was the leading Test wicket-taker in 2023 with 47 dismissals?
- 3. When did Jana Novotna win her only Wimbledon women's singles title?
- 4. What was the scoreline when Luke Humphries defeated Luke Littler in this year's PDC World Darts Championship? 5. What was the only
- golfing major Tom Watson did not win? 6. Who was the winner
- of the first Chinese Grand Prix in 2004?
- 7. Where do Women's Super League side Everton typically play their home matches? 8. How many times has John Higgins won the
- World Snooker Championship? 9. Esan Marsters plays
- J. Esan warsters plays for which Super League side? 10. Which city hosted the 1924 Summer
- Olympics?
- 11. Who won the 2023 World Snooker Championship? 12. In the women's world golf rankings,
- who is the highest ranked British player? 13. Who is currently bottom of the Premier League Darts table?
- 14. Who did Marketa Vondrousova beat in the final at Wimbledon to become the first unseeded player to win the women's singles
- 15. In which US city do the following sports teams play: Cavaliers, Guardians and Browns? 16. How many goals did Rachel Daly score last season to win the Women's Super League golden boot?
- 17. Which cricket club are based at New Road?
- 18. Which team does England full-back Ellie Kildunne play for?
- 19. How many medals did swimmer Duncan Scott win at the Tokyo Olympics?
- 20. Alex Albon and Logan Sargeant race for which Formula 1

UNAI Emery praised Ollie Watkins' all-round game after the striker moved near the top of the scoring charts. As well as being – with 19 – only one goal behind joint-leaders Erling Haaland and Cole Palmer in the race for the Golden Boot, Watkins is also now the division's outright leading assistmaker this season with 12. And Villa boss Emery said of the 28-year-old England international: "Always his first objective is to win as a team, to help in everything we need tactically and then

we need tactically and then

By ANDY MILLOM

of course, when he scores it

of course, when he scores it is fantastic for him, for the team. But when he doesn't score, he plays, helping the team being brilliant.
"I think he's adding more things tactically himself to feel comfortable playing, scoring goals, assisting and even without those circumstances, playing for the team, playing in the structure we have tactically. "His commitment to do the work we always need has

work we always need has been fantastic, more than

scoring goals, more than

assists.

"He's increasing his level and showing us – being very demanding in himself – how he can increase the level in a lot of things, more than scoring goals.
"I appreciate him and his

scoring goals.
"I appreciate him and his progress, I think other coaches and in the national team, they are of course aware about him, how he's increasing and how he's been impostant.

important.
"I think he deserves it because he's a really hard worker every day. Always he wants to work more in the

training session."

There were also positive words for Watkins from Emery's Bournemouth

Emery's Bournemouth counterpart Andoni Iraola. The Cherries manager said: "He is an amazing player. It's a little bit like Dom with us.

He scores a lot of goals and he gives them a lot.

"He attacks the spaces, he

The attacks the spaces, he is very good at pressing.

"He has been amazing all season – not only looking at the numbers. It's about what he gives the team. He's very, very complete."



7-4; S. US PGA Champlonahlp; G. Rubens Barrichollo; Y. Welton Hall Sark; S. Four (1998; 2007; 2009 and 2011). 9. Paris; J. Luca Brecel; 12. Chanley Hult; 13. Peter Wright; J. A. One Jabeur; 15. Wright; J. A. One Jabeur; 16. Nathan Lyon; 3. 1998; 4. 7-4; 5. US PGA ANSWERS: 1. Welterweight; 2.

Mourinho moans as Erik clings to Utd job

JOSE Mourinho believes his time with Manchester United may have been more successful had he been afforded the same level of support and trust as current manager Erik ten Hag. Mourinho won the

Carabao Cup and Europa League in his first season at Old Trafford before finishing second in the Premier League the

Premier League the following campaign. But the Portuguese, who revealed he endured a difficult working relationship with former United chief executive Ed Woodward, was sacked in December 2018 after a poor was fresults.

poor run of results.

The fortunes of the 20time English champions time English champions have improved little since his departure, with Dutchman Ten Hag taking over in 2022 following the tenures of Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and interim coach Ralf Rangnick.

"My relationship with Ed Woodward was good – good as in the personal

good as in the personal point of view," Mourinho

said.
"But from a professional point of view it was not the best. I am who I am. I am a football man.

"Ed comes from a different background and what Ten Hag has in his time at Manchester United I didn't have.
"I didn't have that level

of support. I didn't have that level of trust when I was at United.

"So I left sad, because I felt I was in the beginning of the process.

"In some moments. I felt if they trusted me and believed in my experience things could be different."

Former Chelsea, Inter Milan and Real Madrid manager Mourinho returned to the Premier League with Tottenham in 2019 before taking charge at Roma, a role he left in

January. The 61-year-old "would love Manchester United to succeed" but suggested some squad members remaining from his tenure lack the professionalism to represent a club striving to compete with the world's best.
"There are a couple of

players still there I didn't want five or six years ago,' he said.

"I think they represent a little bit what I consider not the best professional profile to a club of a

certain dimension.

"But I did my job there.
Time always tells the truth.
I would love Manchester United to succeed.

GUARDIOLA WANTS HIS PLAYI 23333

Guardiola feels **Manchester City players will** need to cool off "in the fridge" after their exertions of the past few days.

past few days.

City responded to last Wednesday's draining penalty shootout loss to Real Madrid by digging in for a hard-fought 1-0 victory over Chelsea in their FA Cup semi-final at Wembley on Saturday

The win, secured by a late goal from Bernardo Silva, maintained their hope of defending the domestic double but Guardiola later hit out at the scheduling of the fixture.

Rest

The City boss felt his players should have been allowed more rest after their European game and he now intends to give them a break beforethey return to Premier League action at Brighton tomorrow.

"In the fridge for two days," said Guardiola when asked what his plans were for his squad ahead of the trip to the Amex Stadium. "Don't see

By PAUL THOMAS

each other, stay at home with your

families. Try to rest, nothing special.

"Two days to prepare for Brighton and (Nottingham) Forest. One game at a time

at a time."
Guardiola clarified comments
after the game suggesting he could
boycott media duties over the issue.
The Spaniard insisted he meant to
say he would not have time to go
above and beyond the usual

above and beyond the usual obligations.
"No, it's Gary Lineker – come on!" he said, in reference to the host of Saturday's BBC TV coverage.
"If they ask for a photoshoot for the broadcasters, I'll say no I'm busy, I don't have time. It's a joke for the future.

future.
"Ialways attend the media because institution. I've I represent this institution. I've always done it and will always do it, but if they ask for extra then I don't have time.

"If you put me in a game every three days then the managers have a lot to do." Guardiola also praised the

Guardiola also praised the character of Silva, who had been one

of two City players to miss in the penalties in the defeat by Real. The Portuguese had also been close to being substituted shortly before scoring his 84th-minute winner.

He said: "Always life gives you a second chance and he took it.
"I was thinking of changing it and put Oscar (Bobb) on the right but, after the goal, Bernardo is so intelligent to keep the ball. So intuitive. In that moment I could not change him.

Return

"He was so tired but Bernardo has this special intelligence. I'm so happy, he deserves the best. They weren't easy days for him." Bernardo admitted he had been

Bernardo admitted he had been through a range of emotions after bouncing back from his European penalty heartache with an FA Cup semi-final winner.

It came less than three days after he had badly fluffed his lines with a poor spot-kick as City were agonisingly knocked out of the Champions League by Real Madrid in a draining encounter on Wednesday.

Silva released a lot of emotion in

a vigorous celebration after his 84th-

a vigorous celebration after his 84th-minute strike and he revealed that was culmination of a lot of factors. He said: "After a very frustrating week for all of us it's good to get back on the winning side and qualify for another final and another chance to

another final and another chance to win a trophy.

"We're happy.

"Wednesday was a frustrating night for me. It was tough.

"First night, I didn't sleep much. Second night, you sleep a bit better, the third night you sleep almost the whole night.

"It is what it is. It's football, it's our profession and we have to deal with those emotions.

"The way this team reacts is always really good. Once again we showed character and that no matter what happens, we stick together and

showed character and that no matter what happens, we stick together and go for it."

Silva – one of two City players to miss in the shootout loss along with Mateo Kovacic – was embarrassed as he chipped tamely into the hands of Real goalkeeper Andriy Lunin from the spot.

He said that he had seen Lunin more early for the previous papelty.

move early for the previous penalty, taken by Julian Alvarez, and felt

ERS TO KEEP THEIR COOL



striking down the middle would

Silva said: "I was waiting, I wanted to be the second or the third penalty to see the reaction from the keeper in the first or the

"And he moved early, that's why I thought the middle was good because in moments of pressure the keepers, 99 per cent of the time, they move. But he chose not to move and fair play to him, well done."

Resolve

Silva denied a theory that the delay to his penalty, caused by the ball needing to be retrieved from the crowd, had affected him

from the crowd, had affected him mentally.

He said: "For me, no. My decision was made. I was going shoot the penalty in the middle."

City showed the resolve of champions to hang in and edge out Chelsea, who dominated the tie at Wembley.

The Londoners were left to rue wasting a host of chances, with misfiring striker Nicolas Jackson

the prime culprit. They were also frustrated not to be awarded a penalty after a Cole Palmer free-kick struck the arm of Jack Grealish. Most pundits agreed

Grealish. Most pundits agreed that it was a penalty.

Veteran defender Thiago Silva said: "I think it's laughable. I don't like to talk about the referees, especially after a defeat as it looks like an excuse, but I believe VAR could have sent the ref to the monitor.

"If he goes to the monitor and decides not to give a pen, I'm fine with it, but the referee should go and see it."

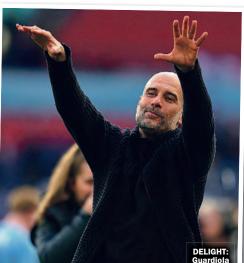
and see it."
Silva, 39, is out of contract at the end of the season and promised to reveal his future plans soon.

plans soon.

The Brazilian said: "You are going to know in the coming days.

"I don't want to say anything now after a defeat, I'm sad about the result, but sooner or later the pages will composit." news will come out.

"I do have a decision made in my mind, but it's not the moment to share it."





Action replay as old rivals meet in final

MANCHESTER City and Manchester United will meet in the FA Cup final for the second year in a row after City beat Chelsea and United survived a thrilling semifinal against Coventry.

Here, Midweek Sport looks at their head-tohead record in the competition and the historical significance of next month's clash.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

llkay Gundogan's goal after 12 seconds – the fastest FA Cup final goal in history – is the abiding memory of City's 2-1 win last year. Bruno Fernandes

equalised from a penalty but a second Gundogan strike sealed City's fourth and most significant victory in nine FA Cup derbies dating back almost a century.

City won the 1926 semi-final 3-0, Tommy Browell scoring twice, but went on to lose the final 1-0 to Bolton.
The Manchester rivals

The Manchester rivals did not meet in the competition again until a 1955 fourth-round clash also won by City, 2-0. United won the next four ties against City, starting with another fourth of the count meeting in

fourth-round meeting in 1970 when Brian Kidd – a future assistant manager

of both clubs – scored twice in a 3-0 win. Norman Whiteside scored the only goal in 1987's third-round tie and Eric Cantona's penalty proved decisive in a 2-1 fifth-round win in 1996.

They met at that stage again in 2004, Ruud van



EQUALISER: Fernandes



Nistelrooy scoring twice as United won 4-2 despite Gary Neville's first-half

A solitary Yaya Toure goal settled the 2011 semi-final in City's favour before United's Paul Scholes was sent off – this time City went on to win the competition, beating Stoke in the final.

United held off a second-half fightback from 10-man City in the following season's third round, Wayne Rooney's brace setting up a 3-2 win, before Gundogan's Wembley heroics last year.

This will be the first time in 129 years that the same two clubs have met in the final in consecutive

easons.

Queen's Park, the only Scottish side to play in an FA Cup final, were beaten by Blackburn in both 1884 and 1885 at the Oval.

The nearest in the intervening years has been the same two teams meeting three years apart, most recently Arsenal beating Chelsea 2-1 in both 2017 and

City and United will become the 17th pair of teams to meet in multiple

United rank second all time for FA Cup wins, two behind Arsenal on 12, and will remain there regardless of the outcome

this time around.
Victory for City would
be their eighth, lifting them to joint third alongside Chelsea Liverpool and Tottenham.

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